

## **Chapter 8.16 PET LICENSING**

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### **8.16.010 License–Required–Age and residence requirements for license holder.**

All dogs, cats and ferrets must be licensed each year, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, to a person eighteen years old or older who has a residence or property within the city.

### **8.16.020 License–Required–Age of animals.**

Any person owning, possessing or harboring any dog, cat or ferret within the city shall obtain a license for such animal within thirty days after the animal reaches the age of four months, or, in the case of a dog, cat or ferret over four months of age, within thirty days of the acquisition of ownership or possession of the animal by said person.

### **8.16.030 License–Application.**

License applications must be submitted to the city, utilizing a standard form which requests name, address and telephone number

of the applicant; breed, sex, color and age of the animal; previous license information, rabies and sterilization information, and the number, location or other information applicable to a tattoo or implanted microchip of the animal. The application shall be accompanied by the prescribed license fee and by a rabies vaccination certificate current for a minimum of six months beyond the date of application. A license shall not be issued for a period that exceeds the expiration date of the rabies vaccination. A licensed veterinarian shall give rabies vaccinations with a vaccine approved by the current Compendium of Animal Rabies Control.

### **8.16.040 Additional requirements for licensing and keeping ferrets.**

Without limiting any other requirements of this title, those wishing to keep ferrets must adhere to the following requirements:

A. First time applicants for ferret licenses must present, in addition to the requirements of section 8.16.030, proof of applicant's satisfactory completion of a ferret ownership class. The class must have the approval/certification of the director and must, at a minimum, include the following:

1. Explanation of the dangers ferrets present to people and other animals; and
2. Explanation of the dangers of owning a ferret in a household with infants and small children.

B. All ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies at least annually.

C. An identifying microchip must be implanted in each ferret, and the microchip number must be included with each license application.

D. No more than two adult ferrets may be kept in a household at any time, and no more than two litters of kits under the age of five months may be kept in a household at any time.

E. Ferrets shall be kept primarily as indoor pets, and shall be housed in a cage or

kennel of sufficient size and construction to allow proper space and safekeeping of the ferret. When a ferret is outside, it shall be kept on a harness with a leash not over six (6) feet in length specifically designed for ferrets.

F. The city encourages owners to sterilize and de-scent their ferrets.

#### **8.16.050 Veterinary certificate.**

No dog, cat or ferret will be licensed as spayed or neutered without veterinary certificate that such surgery has been performed. If a veterinarian opines in writing that a dog, cat or ferret has been spayed or neutered, such written opinion may constitute a veterinary certificate.

#### **8.16.060 License–Fees–Senior citizens.**

A person sixty years of age or older on the date of license application may, upon proof of that person's age, obtain a senior citizen dog, cat or ferret license for an unsterilized animal for an annual fee as set forth in the attached fee schedule. A person sixty years of age or older may obtain a senior citizen dog, cat or ferret license for the life of a spayed or neutered animal for a one-time fee as set forth in the attached fee schedule, but such person shall nevertheless obtain a license tag, as needed, without fee thereafter. This section shall not be construed to relieve any person from meeting all licensing requirements not specifically exempted, including late fees and required vaccinations, nor is any license issued hereunder transferable to any other animal or owner other than that for which the license was issued.

#### **8.16.070 License–Term and renewal.**

The license shall be issued for one year, and be effective from the date of purchase, through the end of the same month of the expiration year as the month in which the license is purchased, or at the end of the rabies vaccination period current for the animal at

the time the license is obtained, whichever date occurs first. Renewals must be obtained prior to the expiration of the immediately preceding license. Applications for renewals made after the expiration of the immediately preceding license must be accompanied by a late fee in accordance with the attached fee schedule.

#### **8.16.080 License–Revocation.**

If the owner of any dog(s), cat(s) or ferret(s) is found to be in violation of this title on three or more different occasions, within a twelve month period, the director may seek a court order pursuant to chapter 8.40, revoking for a period of one year any and all license(s) such person may possess, and providing for the division to pick up and impound any animal kept by the person under such order. Any animal impounded pursuant to such an order shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this title for impounded animals, except that the person under the order of revocation shall not be allowed to redeem such animal, unless successfully making reapplication of the license with the director. Persons seeking reapplication of said license must comply with conditions as set forth by the director that may include, but not limited to, sterilization of the animal(s), enclosure requirements and confinement conditions.

#### **8.16.090 License–Tag requirements.**

A. Upon payment of the license fee, the director shall issue to the owner a receipt and a tag for each pet licensed. The tag shall have stamped thereon the license number, corresponding with the tag number on the receipt. The owner shall attach the tag to the collar or harness of the animal and see that the animal constantly wears the collar and tag. Failure to attach the tag as provided shall be a violation of this title, except that dogs or cats which are kept for show purposes are exempt from wearing the collar and tag while participating in an animal exhibition.

B. Tags are not transferable from one animal to another or from one owner to another. No refunds shall be made on any dog, cat or ferret license fee for any reason whatsoever. Replacement for lost or destroyed tags shall be allowed upon payment to the division of the replacement tag fee set forth in the attached fee schedule.

C. Any person who removes, or causes the removal, of the collar, harness or tag from any licensed dog, cat or ferret without the consent of the owner or keeper thereof, except a licensed veterinarian or animal control officer who removes such for medical or other reasons, shall violate this title.

D. Owners may have an identifying microchip implanted in their animals. If owners take such action, they may be exempt from the requirement that such animals wear identifying tags at all times while on the owner's premises, provided that the microchip information has been registered with the division. Owners shall assume the risk of the loss or destruction of an unrestrained animal whose microchip either cannot be located after a reasonable search therefore or owner information cannot be found after a reasonable records search.

E. It is the responsibility of any vendor of microchips to provide information to the division as to the identification of the owner of an animal that has been micro chipped by said vendor.

#### **8.16.100 License-Exemptions**

A. The provisions of sections 8.16.010 through 8.16.090 shall not apply in the following circumstances:

1. The dog, cat or ferret is properly licensed in another jurisdiction and the owner thereof is within the city temporarily, for a period not to exceed 30 consecutive days. If the owner shall be within the city temporarily, but for a period longer than 30 consecutive days, he may transfer the dog, cat or ferret to the local license required by this chapter by

payment of the fee set forth in the attached fee schedule, and upon presentment of proof of a current rabies vaccination for the animal.

2. Individual dogs, cats or ferrets housed within a properly permitted facility or other such establishment when such animals are held for resale for a period not to exceed 12 months.

B. The fee provisions of sections 8.16.010 through 8.16.080 shall not apply to:

1. Seeing-eye dogs trained and certified to assist blind persons, if such dogs are actually used by blind persons to assist them in moving from place to place;

2. Hearing dogs trained and certified to assist deaf persons to aid them in responding to sounds and in use for that purpose;

3. Assistance dogs trained and certified to assist persons with a physical disability and in use for that purpose; or

4. Dogs trained to assist officials of government agencies in the performance of their duties and which are owned by such agencies.

C. Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to exempt any dog, cat or ferret located within the city from having a current rabies vaccination.

#### **8.16.110 License vendors**

The director may contract with veterinary hospitals, veterinarians, pet shops, animal grooming parlors, and similar institutions or individuals for the issuance of license application forms.

#### **8.16.120 Number of dogs, cats, and ferrets per residence or property.**

No person or persons at any one residence or property within the city shall at any one time own, harbor, or license more than two adult dogs, cats, or ferrets of any one species and no more than four total dogs, cats, or ferrets in any combination except as otherwise provided in this section and in

chapter 8.12.